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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W
---------- 107308
R 101335Z MAY 74
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2244
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCYPFRACKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
RUEAEAAMCONSUL STUTTGART 318
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUSSELDORF 0414

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: SPECULATION CONCERNING BRANDT'S RESIGNATION

1. IN THE COURSE OF A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH CONTACTS IN THE SPD AND THE DGB, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A NEW "STAB IN THE BACK" THEORY IS BEING DEVELOPED TO EXPLAIN BRANDT'S RESIGNATION.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, DISLOYAL ELEMENTS IN THE BND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CDU/CSU LEADERSHIP AND IN COOPERATION WITH INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER MADE AVAILABLE REAL OR MANUFACTURED INFORMATION WHICH FORCED BRANDT TO RESIGN. LITTLE OR NO EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO GUILLAUME'S ROLE, TO THAT OF HIS MASTERS IN THE DDR, OR TO THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY EHMHE. INSTEAD, GENSCHER IS PORTRAYED AS THE CHIEF GILLIAN.

3. ALTHOUGH THE TOP POLITICAL LEADERS HERE ARE TRYING TO
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DISCREDIT THIS SCENARIO, IT IS BEING VIGORIOUSLY PUBLICIZED

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BY ELEMENTS IN THE SPD AND DGB AND IS BEING GIVEN SOME CREDENCE. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THIS STORY WILL HAVE ANY SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE SCHMIDT CABINET, IT DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR THE SOLIDITY OF THE COALITION SHOULD A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THE SPD RANK AND FILE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEW LEADER OF THE FDP HAD A ROLE IN ENDING BRANDT'S POLITICAL CAREER.HENNEMEYER

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TAGS: PINT, GE, (BRANDT, WILLY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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